IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~handheld computer~~computing apparatus, comprising:

a housing having ~~a first and second elongate accessory slots~~ a slot that extends at least a majority of a length of the housing and is at least partially exposed along a lateral side of the housing, the accessory slot being ~~associated with a left and right sides of the housing, respectively, the first and second accessory slots capable of receiving and accommodating~~ shaped to receive and accommodate at least one removable ~~accessory~~ device.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~handheld computer~~computing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~first and second accessory slots~~slot is shaped to only partially enclose ~~the accessory~~ removeable device along substantially a length of the removeable ~~accessory~~ device~~, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the length of the accessory device~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~handheld computer~~computing apparatus of claim 1, wherein a bottom of the housing is flared out and acts as a stop for the removeable device when the removeable device is inserted into the slot. ~~accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~handheld computer~~computing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the removeable ~~accessory slots are~~slot is substantially cylindrical.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~handheld computer~~computing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the removeable ~~accessory~~ device is a stylus device.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~handheld computer~~computing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the removeable ~~accessory~~ device is a spine portion of a cover device.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~handheld computer~~computing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

~~an external~~a communication port ~~in communication with the first accessory~~within an interior surface of the slot, the ~~external~~ communication port having at least one ~~external port contact~~communicative contact.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~handheld computer~~computing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the removeable ~~accessory~~ device is an input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the at least one contact of the ~~external~~ communication ~~port contacts~~ when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the ~~first accessory~~ slot.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~handheld computer~~computing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~first and second accessory slots~~slot includes ~~each include~~ a retaining device for retaining ~~accessory~~ removeable devices.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~handheld computer~~ computing apparatus of claim 9, wherein the retaining device is a notch which mates with a detent on the ~~accessory~~ removeable device.

Claims 11-40: Cancel

41. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the slot is shaped to receive a stylus as the removeable device.

42. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the slot is shaped to receive a spine of one of a cover or encasement as the remoevable device.

43. (New) A computing apparatus comprising:

a display;

a housing formed at least in part by a front shell and a back shell, the front shell including a front face that provides access to a display, and the back shell including a back face opposing the front face, the housing including a midframe positioned at least partially between the front shell and the back shell, wherein the midframe is at least partially exposed along one or more peripheral surfaces of the housing, and wherein the midframe extends around one or more internal components of the computing apparatus, including the display; and

a first slot formed in the housing, wherein the first slot is formed at least partially from the midframe, and wherein the first slot includes an opening that extends a majority of a length of the first slot, the opening of the first slot being provided on a first portion of the peripheral surface.

44. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 43, further comprising a second slot formed in the housing, wherein the second slot is formed at least partially from the midframe, and wherein the second slot includes an opening that extends a majority of a length of second slot, the opening of the second slot being provided on a second portion of the peripheral surface.

45. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 43, wherein the first peripheral portion and the second peripheral portion are positioned on opposite lateral sides of the housing.

46. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 43, wherein the first slot includes a substantially rounded interior.

47. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 44, wherein the first slot and the second slot each include a substantially rounded interior.

48. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 43, wherein the first slot is shaped to receive either a stylus or a spine of an accessory device.

49. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 43, wherein the peripheral portion is formed from at least portions of the front shell and the back shell.

50. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 43, wherein at least a third portion of the peripheral surface is formed from a material which is at least partially transmissive to infrared light.

51. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 50, wherein the housing includes an interior space for accommodating an infrared communications component, and wherein the third portion of the peripheral surface is adjacent to the component.

52. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 51, wherein the third portion of the peripheral surface is formed by the midframe.

53. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 52, wherein the material for the third portion of the peripheral surface is polished.

54. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 52, wherein the material for the third portion of the peripheral surface is opaque to visible light.

55. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 43, wherein the peripheral surface is formed from a plurality of housing segments, which include the midframe.

56. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 43, wherein midframe is constructed from a plurality of segments.

57. (New) A computing apparatus comprising:

a housing formed at least in part by a front shell and a back shell, the front shell including a front face that provides access to a display, and the back shell including a back face opposing the front face, the housing including a peripheral surface that forms a thickness of the housing between the front face and the back face; and

a first slot formed in the housing, wherein first slot is only partially formed so as to have an opening that extends at least a majority of a length of the first slot, the opening of the first slot being formed on a first portion of the peripheral surface, wherein the first slot is shaped to receive a first elongated removeable device so that at least a portion of an overall length of the first elongated emoveable device is exposed by the opening of the first slot; and

a second slot formed in the housing, wherein the second slot is only partially formed so as to have an opening that extends lengthwise a majority of a length of the second slot, the opening of the second slot being formed on a second potion of the peripheral surface, wherein the second slot is shaped to receive a second elongated removeable device so that at least a portion of an overall length of the second elongated removeable device is exposed by the opening of the second slot.

58. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 57, wherein the peripheral surface is includes a third portion that is at least partially formed from a material which is at least partially transmissive to infrared light.

59. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 57, wherein at least one of the first slot and the second slot includes a rounded interior.

60. (New) The computing apparatus of claim 57, wherein at least one of the first slot and the second slot is formed from a midframe positioned between the front shell and the back shell, wherein the midframe extends around a majority of the internal components of the computing device, including a display of the computing device.